

To: R1NewsClips[R1NewsClips@epa.gov]
From: Conroy, Kristen
Sent: Thur 10/6/2016 9:54:12 AM
Subject: Daily Clips, Thursday, October 6, 2016 R1Newsclips

Report Overview:

Total Clips (9)

Brownfields / Superfund / Other Cleanups (5)

Climate Change (1)

Energy Issues (2)

Other (1)

Headline	Date	Outlet	Outlet State
Brownfields / Superfund / Other Cleanups (5)			
State ID's likely sources of groundwater contamination in Newton - The Boston Globe	10/05/2016	Boston Globe Online	MA
Activists warn that PCBs - toxic industrial chemicals - contaminate thousands of U.S. schools	10/05/2016	Washington Post Online, The	DC
The EPA gets closer to cleaning up one of the nation's most polluted rivers	10/05/2016	Washington Post Online, The	DC
PCBs pose threat in thousands of schools, activists warn	10/05/2016	Washington Post, The	DC
EPA makes progress in staging river rehab	10/05/2016	Washington Post, The	DC
Climate Change (1)			
Paris climate agreement to take effect in 30 days	10/05/2016	Advocate Online, The	CT
Energy Issues (2)			
New York objects to L.I. Sound dredge plan	10/05/2016	Advocate Online, The	CT
Baker to announce DCR shake-up after probe - The Boston Globe	10/05/2016	Boston Globe Online	MA

Other (1)

**Public criticizes mayor's proposal but
Planning Board hearings will go
ahead** **10/06/2016** **Concordia Daily** **NH**
Push back on Weirs rezoning **Sun - Online,**
The

News Headline: State ID's likely sources of groundwater contamination in Newton -
The Boston Globe | ..

Outlet Full Name: Boston Globe Online

News Text: ...contamination of groundwater in the area. In Newton, groundwater is
not drinking water. Mark Root a spokesman for Northrop Grumman...

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: Activists warn that PCBs - toxic industrial chemicals - contaminate
thousands of U.S. schools | ..

Outlet Full Name: Washington Post Online, The

News Text: ...of 'The Ides of March', in this file photo from 2011. (AP Photo/Joel
Ryan) Polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, are industrial...

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: The EPA gets closer to cleaning up one of the nation's most
polluted rivers | ..

Outlet Full Name: Washington Post Online, The

News Text: ...in Riverbank Park in Newark. (Dave Sanders for the New York
Times) The Environmental Protection Agency moved a step closer...

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: PCBs pose threat in thousands of schools, activists warn | ..

Outlet Full Name: Washington Post, The

News Text: Polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, are industrial chemicals so toxic
that Congress banned them 40 years ago. Research has shown that they can cause a
range of health concerns, including cancer and neurological problems such as
decreased IQ. And yet, because they were commonly used in building materials for
decades, they continue to contaminate classrooms in 13,000 to 26,000 schools
nationwide, according to Harvard researchers.

No one knows exactly how many schools are affected - or how many children are being exposed to these toxic chemicals - because many schools don't test for PCBs. Under federal law, they don't have to.

Now, activists are mounting a campaign to change that, lobbying Congress to close what they say is a dangerous loophole that could be harming millions of children. The effort comes in the aftermath of the water crisis in Flint, Mich., amid new scrutiny of schoolchildren's exposure to another toxic substance for which schools are not required to test: lead in drinking fountains.

"Parents have the right to know what their children are being exposed to in school," said Jennifer deNicola, a parent in Malibu, Calif., who helped lead a years-long effort to rid that community's schools of PCBs in window caulk and other materials, eventually filing a lawsuit against the school district.

People can be exposed to the chemicals when they touch contaminated substances, eat contaminated food or breathe air contaminated with PCB-laden dust. The caulk in Malibu schools had concentrations of PCBs that in some instances were thousands of times higher than the federal limit.

The legal battle in that tony seaside community - which ended last month when a federal judge ordered the school district to remove PCBs from its schools by Dec. 31, 2019 - drew national attention, not least because supermodel Cindy Crawford pulled her children out of the school system and became a spokeswoman for the cause.

Schools also have grappled with the problem elsewhere, including in New York, Massachusetts and Washington state. A school in Hartford, Conn., was closed indefinitely for cleanup last year after it was found to have airborne PCB levels nearly 2,000 times greater than the federal limit, according to the Hartford Courant.

Now deNicola and Crawford are turning their attention to undetected PCBs in schools nationwide. "We need to make this a political issue bigger than us," said deNicola, who started the nonprofit organization America Unites for Kids to address the problem.

They have joined forces with the Environmental Working Group, a research and advocacy organization that specializes in public health. They are lobbying Congress to make clear that the Environmental Protection Agency must require schools built between 1950 and 1979 - when PCBs were commonly used not only in window caulk but also in school fluorescent lighting fixtures, paint and floor finishes - to test for contamination.

They have an ally in Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), who on Wednesday released a report on the extent of PCB contamination in the nation's schools and called on Congress to provide the money that schools need to test for, and respond to, the

problem. Markey also called for mandatory PCB testing in schools. According to Markey's report, the EPA has received 286 reports of PCB contamination in 22 states during the past decade, affecting thousands of schools.

"Right now, at the rate of current enforcement and inspection activities by states and the EPA, it would take at least 32 years to inspect schools that may have PCB-containing caulk," Markey said.

EPA officials said they do not recommend inspections at all such schools because a blanket approach would not be appropriate or effective at every school. Instead, they recommend reducing chances of contamination by removing PCB-based fluorescent light fixtures, by removing caulk and other materials during planned renovations, and by keeping PCB-laden dust to a minimum by mopping and using wet rags.

That approach is the most effective way for schools to use limited resources to deal with potential PCB contamination, said Jeff Morris of the EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics. Morris also emphasized that current laws and regulations do not give the EPA the authority to require testing. "We're not saying that this is a trivial thing at all," he said. "It is in a lot of buildings, it's true."

The Malibu school district was found to have violated the Toxic Substances Control Act because of the illegally high levels of PCBs in window caulk. But district officials said they had consistently complied with EPA guidance and requirements, and the judge in the case agreed.

"The district is a public agency that is following the law and following the EPA guidelines that have been sent to us," said Gail Pinsker, spokeswoman for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, who added that the district is confident its classrooms are, and always have been, safe.

emma.brown@washpost.com

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: EPA makes progress in staging river rehab |

Outlet Full Name: Washington Post, The

News Text: The Environmental Protection Agency moved a step closer Wednesday toward cleaning up the most polluted stretch of one of the most polluted rivers in the United States.

The agency announced a \$165 million settlement with the company that owns the former Diamond Alkali facility in Newark, where the herbicide Agent Orange and pesticides were produced during the 1960s. That factory left a toxic legacy in the form of dioxin, a carcinogen that has persisted in the Passaic River in high

concentrations.

Wednesday's agreement will require Occidental Chemical to undertake the engineering and design work to begin one of the largest environmental cleanups in the history of EPA's Superfund program.

"This is a new chapter in the history of the Passaic River," Judith Enck, the EPA's regional administrator, said in a call with reporters.

For generations, the Passaic served as an engine of northern New Jersey's industrial corridor. But the factories along its banks dumped chemicals, heavy metals and pesticides into the increasingly murky water. The river nowadays is a noxious, trash-marred mess.

This spring, the EPA finalized a \$1.4 billion, 10-year plan to remove industrial toxins that have built up for more than a century along the Passaic's lower eight miles. That stretch would be dredged from bank to bank, with more than 3.5 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment removed and a two-foot-thick sand and stone barrier laid to "cap" the river bottom. The contaminated sediment would be shipped to a licensed disposal site out of the state.

Yet that won't happen anytime soon. The settlement with Occidental will help pay for only the planning stage of the massive project, which is expected to take about four years.

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement with the U.S. EPA and look forward to partnering with the agency on the remedial design," spokesman Eric Moses said via email Wednesday.

Federal officials have yet to reach a similar agreement with a group of roughly 100 companies also responsible for polluting the Passaic - a group that includes household names such as Honeywell, Pfizer and Sherwin-Williams - about individual financial obligations. The group has fought large-scale dredging and pushed instead for targeted removal in the river's dirtiest areas.

Enck said that regulators would continue negotiating with the remaining polluters but that under the Superfund program, the companies eventually could be ordered to pay for the remainder of the project to ensure that the burden doesn't fall to taxpayers.

brady.dennis@washpost.com

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: Paris climate agreement to take effect in 30 days | .

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The landmark Paris agreement on climate change will enter into force in 30 days, after the number of countries ratifying the accord surpassed a key threshold on Wednesday. U.N. Spokesman Farhan Haq said the EU, Canada and Nepal are all expected to deposit their instruments of ratification over the course of the day. "By the end of the day, we expect the Paris agreement on climate change to have crossed the second and final threshold needed for it to enter into force," Haq said. The deal takes effect 30 days after 55 countries, accounting for at least 55 percent of global emissions, have adopted it. Sixty-two countries had done so as of Tuesday but they accounted only for about 52 percent of emissions. "The Secretary-General has been very encouraged by the tremendous positive support from a broad coalition of countries from the largest emitters to the small island developing states to bring the Paris agreement to life as soon as possible," Haq said. With the addition of Nepal, Canada and the seven EU countries that have so far ratified the deal, the countries now account for well over 55 percent of emissions. The Paris agreement commits rich and poor countries to take action to curb the rise in global temperatures that is melting glaciers, raising sea levels and shifting rainfall patterns. It requires governments to present national plans to reduce emissions to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). International momentum has been building to ensure that the deal could enter force by next U.N. climate conference, which starts Nov. 7 in Marrakech, Morocco.

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: New York objects to L.I. Sound dredge plan |

Outlet Full Name: Advocate Online, The

News Text: New York state officials are objecting to a federal agency's plan - already endorsed by their Connecticut counterparts - to dump dredged silt in Long Island Sound. The Associated Press reports that Rossana Rosado, New York's secretary of state, formally objected in a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Rosado said the EPA needs to consider alternate sites, and the cumulative effects of the dredging. The EPA wants to continue underwater dumping of toxic dredge material at a site in the Eastern Long Island Sound that had been scheduled to close at the end of the year. The New London disposal site will instead be partially closed and expanded beyond its existing underwater footprint to increase capacity. The EPA intends to close the existing Cornfield Shoals disposal site near the mouth of the Connecticut River. "We are proposing to go from two sites to one," Mel Cote, chief of the surface water branch for EPA's New England region, told the Connecticut Post earlier this year. "We are also adding new restrictions and procedures." Dennis Schain, a spokesman for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, said the agency supports the EPA plan, and pointed out that the dredged material to be disposed of at underwater sites is already in the

Sound “We are pleased that EPA continues to recognize the need to preserve options for open water disposal of dredged materials,” Schain said. “Connecticut's ports, harbors and marinas rely on periodic dredging projects to remain open and available to serve the needs of our state.” A recent Hearst Connecticut Media review of a dredging plan developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and now proposed by the EPA found multiple government studies confirming that dredged material stays put after placement, but little science detailing the impact on nearby fish and marine life - or on the 20 million people who live near the Sound's shores. The review also found stiff opposition to the dredging plan in New York State, in part because Connecticut's maritime economy and dredging needs dwarf New York's. Connecticut's sediment is far more polluted, due to generations of industrial factories that dumped pollutants into rivers and the Sound. Environmentalists in Connecticut have also sharply criticized the plan, noting the material is classified as toxic.

Published 7:29 am, Wednesday, October 5, 2016

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: Baker to announce DCR shake-up after probe - The Boston Globe |

Outlet Full Name: Boston Globe Online

News Text: ...Baker on Wednesday will announce a shakeup at the state's energy and environment agency, which has been plagued by scandals in recent...

[Return to Top](#)

News Headline: Public criticizes mayor's proposal but Planning Board hearings will go aheadPush back on Weirs rezoning |

Outlet Full Name: Laconia Daily Sun - Online, The

News Text: ...and commissions, along with the report of a team sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Hutchins told the...

[Return to Top](#)